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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

MAJOR PROGRAMME VII. HUMAN RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Programme 37. Emergency humanitarian assistance

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify paragraphs 37.15, 37.24, 37.26, 37.36, 37.41, 37.47 and 37.49 of programme 37, Emergency humanitarian assistance, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and subsequently revised by the Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and issued in document A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. There is no specialized intergovernmental or expert body responsible for reviewing the revisions proposed under this programme.

A. Programme

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 37.15 — At the end of the paragraph, add "In order to set the stage for sustainable social, political and economic development, the Department, through its operational partners, will develop and implement, within the overall context of its comprehensive humanitarian efforts, specific measures to support post-conflict nation-building, in accordance with the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General in the agenda for peace and the agenda for development."

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POLICY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 37.24 — Amend the paragraph as follows (deletions are in brackets and additions are underlined):

"37.24 The subprogramme will involve primarily the planning, development and evaluation of the activities undertaken by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in fulfilment of its mandate. This includes [applied research and continuous monitoring on the various assignments and functions] monitoring the overall activities of the Department in New York and Geneva to ensure [that] effective coordination and programme implementation with regard to ongoing humanitarian emergencies [are effectively undertaken]. This would include evaluating the impact of emergency activities, drawing conclusions and identifying lessons learnt for application in other situations. This would also require the identification of new issues that need to be addressed and ensuring that the Department, as well as the appropriate inter-agency mechanisms, are appropriately engaged. Given the increasing number of situations where humanitarian operations work closely with other United Nations activities, there is a need for elaboration of the interrelationship between humanitarian assistance and peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building. These considerations are closely linked to the active exercise of humanitarian diplomacy, to early warning and monitoring, and to the examination of the link between relief, rehabilitation and long-term socio-economic development, and to key elements of post-conflict rebuilding of societies through actions such as mine clearance, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, and the resettlement of displaced persons and refugees. The subprogramme will connect these specific

aspects of coordination of humanitarian assistance with a constant attempt to view the tasks of the Department in the context of overall development in the global system as far as the political, economic, social, ecological and technological dimensions are concerned."

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 37.26 After the second sentence insert "In addition, as focal point for United Nations activities in mine clearance, the Department will coordinate and monitor activities of the United Nations and of the organizations of the system in this regard. Another aspect of post-conflict humanitarian action will involve demobilization following armed conflict and resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees. This will involve the formulation of policy guidelines, allocation of responsibilities among the organizations of the system, coordination and resource mobilization for such activities."

SUBPROGRAMME 2. DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 37.36 Beginning on the eleventh line, delete "as well as those which will be carried out in close association with the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,".

SUBPROGRAMME 3. EMERGENCY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 37.41 At the end of subparagraph (b), add "There will be close interaction between the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure a constant exchange of information between humanitarian assistance units in the field and the headquarters of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs".

SUBPROGRAMME 4. DISASTER RELIEF

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 37.47 Add a new subparagraph (h):

"(h) Addressing new tasks in relation to the coordination of response to environmental disasters, in close cooperation with UNEP, as well as technological accidents and activities related to mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster."

SUBPROGRAMME 5. COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

(b) Objectives

Paragraph 37.49 At the end of the paragraph, add: "In accordance with those guiding principles and General Assembly resolution 48/57, the subprogramme addresses issues related to providing timely, prompt and effective humanitarian aid."